

NEWSLETTER

of the

ROBOTICS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Robotics Society Formed, Organizational Meet Set For Tuesday, August 29

After a hiatus of several years during which there was no known organization in the Southern California area devoted to robotics, a new "Robotics Society of Southern California" began to take shape this month with an "interest probing" meeting held on August 1 at MTI College in Orange.

Approximately 20 men and women spent some two hours learning about the previous robotics organization and discussing a philosophy and ideas for a new society. No decisions were made but volunteers from the group agreed to serve on a steering committee which accepted the challenge of providing an agenda for an "organization meeting" to be held in the same room at MTI on Tuesday, August 29. The meeting is scheduled to be called to order at 7:00 p.m., although the steering committee will meet in another room at 6:30 p.m. to finalize the agenda.

According to Tom Carroll, who was a member of the previous Society, that group was organized in 1978 and, at its height, boasted some 60 members.

Wide Variety of Occupations

Perhaps the single most interesting aspect of the August 1 meeting was the discovery of the wide range of occupations represented in the room. These included an animatronic animation technician, a design engineer, a factory automation technician, a college instructor, an electronics engineer, a helicopter mechanic, an inventor, two marketing people, a movie robotics maker, a programmer, and seven people who declined to give specific occupations but who said they had a general interest in robots and robotics.

Steering Committee To Offer Agenda

Meeting after the August 1 session, a volunteer steering committee discussed various proposals, and ideas for the new Robotics Society, what has to be done to bring the Society from an idea to a reality, how its leaders shall be selected, what dues to charge, and how to decide "where do we go from here?"

The Committee will meet again at 6:30 p.m. on August 29 to finalize its recommendations and to offer its ideas to the full membership at the following 7:00 p.m. meeting. *Anyone interested in serving on the committee is welcome to attend to present ideas and suggestions.*

Dues, Officers, Elections to be Presented

The committee did not decide on any names to present to the general membership as officers; however, it did decide that elections should be held on August 29 for a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The plan is that nominations will be opened for each office and that the membership may nominate anyone who is present and willing to serve. Elections will be held for each office, with the president taking over to run the remainder of the meeting and help the new society decide for itself what directions it wishes to take.

The committee also voted to recommend a dues structure consisting of a one-time initiation fee of \$15 per person plus annual dues of \$15. The money raised will be used to have membership cards printed, the creation of a mailing list, the entry of membership data into a computer bank, and the publication of a newsletter.

The frequency of publication of a newsletter was not determined, but a quarterly publication was favored.

Here We Are; Now What Do We Do?

If one thing was obvious at the August 1st meeting, it was that there is little, if any, agreement on the purposes of the new Robotics Society. A number of ideas, all of them valid, were offered at the meeting. Reasons for joining included: belonging to a network to share knowledge about robotics; the opportunity to work on actual projects; learning how to make robots; building a workable, usable, and marketable robot. All these ideas can further the cause of the Society, but there probably ought to be some agreement of priorities so that people can decide for themselves how much they want to devote to the society in order to make it worth their time and effort.
